



BROOKLYN TODAY

A Joint Publication of the City of Brooklyn and the Brooklyn School District

VOLUME FIVE, ISSUE SIXTEEN

FIRST QUARTER 2004

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR KEN PATTON



Now that the excitement of the holiday season has turned into the snow and ice of winter, we turn our concentration to preparing for our spring and summer activities. You can now access the schedule of city events through our City of Brooklyn website. I am extremely pleased to share with you the City of Brooklyn's official website address: www.brooklynohio.gov.

The preparation, hard work and dedication have now come into fruition with an extremely efficient and sophisticated network in place. This technology has allowed for internet connection directly to various departments, allowing the opportunity to reach out to our community and communicate with our residents and businesses on the City of Brooklyn website. This will enable Brooklyn residents and businesses to peer into the inner workings of our community such as viewing a city calendar of events or reporting issues like street repairs, light outages and tree trimmings. I would like to extend a big thank you to the following Information Technology Specialists who worked with my administration to prepare specifications for our information technology system: American Greetings, Anixter, Inc., Cisco Systems, Key Bank, and Brooklyn residents, Dean Bredenbeck, Joe Magrey and John Bundy.

Our ice rink will once again be hosting the high school hockey Baron Cup and the Districts and Regionals of the Ohio High School Athletic Association's state hockey tournament. Be sure to check the schedule.

The family changing rooms inside the Natatorium will be opening in early February. This will allow parents and grandparents to bring their young children to change in the same locker rooms.

The Senior Center will be hosting the AARP Tax Assistance on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call the Senior Center to register.

All of our city departments are planning activities and programs for you and your family, for better health, exercise, nutrition and fun. Travel through cyberspace to www.brooklynohio.gov to see what is new and what is exciting for 2004!



Mayor Patton meets with Bosnian Mayors to discuss differences and similarities in municipal government.

2003 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATUS

The city ended the year much as it did last year, another balanced budget with positive balances in all departments and all funds. Directors used the resources allotted to them effectively and stayed under budget.

The General Fund had revenues of **\$13.519 million**. This was better than expected and greatly aided by a \$700,000 one time payment for taxes due from an IRS settlement. Income tax revenue rose from \$11.314 million last year to \$12.206 million this year. Even without the one time payment, income tax collection would have been \$11.506 million, about \$192,000 better than last year. For all other funds, revenues were close to projection or above projection. Overall, revenue was about what was expected.

Expenditures were monitored and controlled again. In February, the administration projected General Fund expenditures for the year of \$13.300 million. In spite of increased costs for road salt and overtime due to significantly increased requirements for snow removal, actual expenditures were \$13.336 million for the year. This is a difference of 2/10 of one percent from the original projection.

End of year balances were positive in all funds. The balances in our largest and most important funds are as follows:

General Fund:	\$ 2,826,816
Capital Improvement:	\$ 1,433,317
Landfill Closure:	\$ 2,779,615
Street Lighting:	\$ 152,917
Fireman's Pension:	\$ 27,048
Bond Retirement:	\$ 296,079
Street Maintenance:	\$ 132,206
Police Pension:	\$ 10,602

We close out 2003 in good financial position with fund balances adequate to handle poor economic conditions for the next two years. Brooklyn is in much better financial health than our municipal neighbors. As an administration we are cautiously optimistic, our performance has been good. But the economic outlook for the Cleveland metropolitan area is not favorable in the near term. We have challenges ahead of us such as an extra pay date in 2004 and rising health care and workers compensation costs. We must review our operations, maintain services, but continue to cut costs for the next two years if we are to sustain the financial health we have worked



FIRE SAFETY

.....FROM CHIEF PAUL DUCHOSLAV, DIVISION OF FIRE



The Brooklyn Fire Department is pleased to have recently received two complete sets of heavy rescue power tools (Jaws of Life and attachments). The Fire Department trained with this equipment (extrication classes)

in the Recreation Center parking lot on a dozen cars donated by Baker/Premier Wrecking and Towing. This life saving equipment is now in service for the City of Brooklyn.

It's time to spring ahead! Daylight saving time begins on Sunday, April 4th. Remember when you change your clock, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detector too.

And with springtime and warmer weather there is an increase in the potential for severe weather, in particular tornadoes. For tips on tornado safety stop by City Hall or the Fire Department for your tornado safety pamphlet.

Also, hydrant flushing will begin near the end of April with signs posted at least 24 hours in advance. Remember this sometimes turns the water a rusty or-

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Applications are now available in the Building Department and the Senior Center for the Home Energy Assistance Program. Eligible residents may obtain assistance with their home heating bills through the Ohio Department of Development.

The City of Brooklyn would like to welcome these businesses to Brooklyn: Friends Restaurant located in the Biddulph Plaza and the relocated Ice House Tavern at the corner of Brookpark and Tiedeman. Work is now in progress on the New Golden Corral Restaurant on Brookpark Road.

The Building Department is planning a more extensive property maintenance inspection program for 2004, starting with commercial districts in March and continuing throughout the balance of the year. If you are aware of properties in need of maintenance or have any other questions, please contact the Building Department at 216-635-4203 or at the City of Brooklyn website: www.brooklynohio.gov.



POLICE NEWS

... From the Desk of Chief Jack Murphy

Your police department has continued to address all police problems that have arisen during the past year. Our major problems continue to be shoplifting, thefts, disorderly conduct intoxication and drugs.

The police department members have done an excellent job in enforcing the law. The city jail has booked in more than 1,300 prisoners in 2003.

We have been involved in local, state, and federal grants. These include traffic enforcement, drunk driving, suspended licenses, bullet proof vests, paramilitary gear pertaining to Homeland Security, and a \$100,000 grant to help finance a Central Dispatch project which will also encompass an electric storage management system. Our in-house projects continue to be in effect, they include:

Traffic Safety

D.A.R.E.-School drug program, \$31,000 Grant

R.U.O.K.-Senior's health tracking program

Homeland Security

Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Program

(Includes Police and Fire Departments)

Southwest Enforcement Bureau

Brooklyn Anonymous Tip Line 216-635-4200

RECYCLE NEWS

As many residents have already seen the City of Brooklyn has a new method of picking up your recycle material. We have purchased a new recycle packer truck that will pick up your recycle material on the curb. There will no longer be 3 different vehicles picking up your material. With our new recycle packer, we will dump your bin and at the end of the day we will take your material to Waste Management to be dumped. With their equipment they will source separate and process our material to be recycled. Our new policy will save both time and manpower, which now can be better utilized for our residents.

We will now be able to expand our list of materials that we can accept on the curb. Along with your aluminum, steel, plastic, glass and newspaper, you can now dispose of magazines, office paper, computer paper, glossy paper, phone books, cereal boxes and pop/beer cartons. Cardboard that does not exceed the dimensions of 6 inches by 6 inches can be placed in your bin. Make sure that all paper and cardboard is put in a plastic or brown paper bag. Large pieces of corrugated cardboard can be dropped off at the Service Garage for recycling but will not be picked up curbside. **Pizza boxes are not recyclable.** Please dispose of them in your regular rubbish.

SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON DANCE: Takes place on Thursday, March 11. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM and dancing will begin at 1:00 PM. Music will be provided by the Bob Spiwak Band. The cost of tickets are \$7.00 each. **ADVANCE SALES ONLY.**

Interested in losing weight? Lutheran Hospital's Wellness Center offers a "Better Weigh" to achieve your weight loss goals. A registered dietician presents group classes in which individualized meal plans will be developed for all participants. Blood pressure and other screenings will also be provided. There will also be lessons on changing the quality of your diet and recipe modification as well. Classes are open to the community and run from April 7 to May 12 from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM. You can sign up for the six week class on March 31 at 5:30 PM. The cost of the class will be \$50.

CERAMIC CLASSES will be held from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Senior Center. The cost per class is \$2.00 plus the cost of your greenware (moulds to be painted).

For more information about our classes or if you have any suggestions as to additional evening classes and/or programs that you would like to see offered, please call the Senior Center Coordinator, Kay Hutkay at 216-635-4222.

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Brooklyn Historical Society is looking for volunteers. Hours are Tuesdays from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM with training provided. If you are interested, please call Barbara at 216-941-0160.

We are still collecting Brooklyn High Year Books to help fill the High School and Brooklyn Library collections

Historical Fact: Brooklyn High School's first graduating class in 1934 consisted of four girls: Josephine Bajorek, Lottie Frances Jablonowski, Eleanor Maydell Howe and Geneva Leona McManes.

RECREATION CENTER ACTIVITIES

LEARN TO SWIM: This program offers classes for everyone...tots through senior citizens. Registration for the 3rd session will be held on:

March 13 and 14...Resident Registration...11AM-1 PM

March 14...Non-Resident Registration...11 AM-1 PM

***This session runs March 22 through May 19

SPRING EGG HUNT: Resident children ages six and under are invited to join the Easter Bunny and hunt for eggs on Saturday, April 3 at noon at Brooklyn Memorial Park. Registration begins at 11:30 AM at the Grande Pavilion. Remember a basket to collect your eggs.

THE RECREATION CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 11TH

YOUTH BASEBALL REGISTRATION: Resident students may register for this summer program at the Recreation Center on the following days:

Saturday, April 10 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Saturday, April 17 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Wednesday, April 21 6:00 PM-8:30 PM

Wednesday, April 28 6:00 PM-8:30 PM

Saturday, May 1 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

***A Brooklyn Recreation I.D. card and birth certificate are required at the time of registration.

BROOKLYN MEMORIAL PARK PAVILION REQUESTS: Permits may be obtained by calling the Recreation Department Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM-10:30 AM at 216-351-5334.

SUMMER JOB FAIR: If you are interested in working for the City of Brooklyn or the Recreation Department this summer, stop by the Recreation Center on Saturday, April 10 between 10:00 AM and Noon to fill out an application. Applicants must attain their 16th birthday by 6-1-04.

SPRING SWIZZLE SKATING EXHIBITION: Join us April 14 at the Recreation Center at 7:00 PM as local skaters showcase their talents. This exhibition is free and open to the public.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE FRONT YARD BICENTENNIAL LANDSCAPING CONTEST:

1st place...Karen Carson of Southwood Drive

2nd place...Barbara Kuta of Kennedy Drive

3rd place...Bruce and Irene Waugaman of Ridge Road

4th place...Richard and Helen Wilson of Williamston Avenue

ALSO, CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS, WHICH ALSO INCLUDED A BICENTENNIAL THEME CATEGORY:

1st place...Gene and Dorothy Weincek of Behrwald Avenue

2nd place...Melissa Baramante of Northcliff

3rd place...Chrissy Meehan and Chris McFadden of Brookside

Bicentennial Patriotic House...Ivan and Mary Dockery of Northcliff

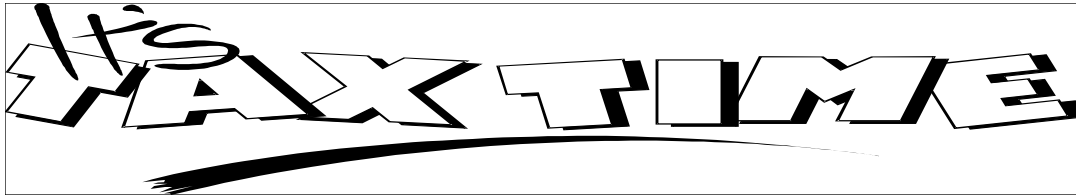


City of Brooklyn
 Mayor Kenneth E. Patton
 7619 Memphis Avenue
 Brooklyn, OH 44144-2197

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
 Cleveland, OH
 Permit No. 141

In This Issue...

Important news from the Mayor's Office and the Brooklyn School System!



A reminder to all Brooklyn residents that city taxes must be filed no later than Friday, April 30, 2004. Please remember that if your return is **postmarked** on or before 4-30-04 it will be considered timely. Anything **post-marked** after 4-30-04 will be considered late and subject to penalty, interest and late fees. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-4:30 PM. Once again as a convenience to all filers we will extend our office hours as follows:

Saturday, April 17.....	9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Saturday, April 24.....	9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Monday, April 26.....	4:30 PM-7:30 PM
Tuesday, April 27.....	4:30 PM-7:30 PM
Wednesday, April 28.....	4:30 PM-7:30 PM
Thursday, April 29.....	4:30 PM-7:30 PM
Friday, April 30.....	4:30 PM-7:30 PM

City income tax forms are available at Brooklyn City Hall and the Brooklyn Library.

If you live in Brooklyn and work, filing with the city is mandatory, whether you owe taxes or not (some exceptions may apply). As usual, if you are required to file in Brooklyn, we will gladly fill out your city tax forms at no cost.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please call the Brooklyn Tax Department at 351-2133, extension 4212 or 4213.